

# USS Virginia (SSN 774)

## Commissioning

### Biography

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## John William Warner

### Senator

JOHN WILLIAM WARNER, Republican from Virginia, began his twenty-fifth year of service in the United States Senate on January 7, 2003 after having been elected to his fifth term on November 5, 2002. He is currently the third longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of the Commonwealth after Harry F. Byrd and Carter Glass.

Senator Warner was born on February 18, 1927. He is the grandson of John W. and Mary Tinsley Warner of Amherst County, Virginia, and the son of the late Martha Budd Warner and the late Dr. John W. Warner, a physician and surgeon.

Senator Warner has had the good fortune — the privilege — to have been a public servant in seven different positions, with cumulative service of almost forty years. His first opportunity began during World War II when in January, 1945, at age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served on active duty until the summer of 1946 and was honorably discharged as Petty Officer 3rd Class, electronic technician's mate. He then attended Washington and Lee University, from which his father graduated in 1903. He was awarded a B.S. degree in basic engineering sciences in 1949. Warner then entered the University of Virginia Law School.

At the outbreak of the Korean War in the summer of 1950, Warner interrupted his studies and commenced a second tour of active military duty, beginning in October 1950, this time in the United States Marine Corps. A year later, October 1951, as a first lieutenant in communications, he volunteered for duty in Korea and served as a ground officer with the First Marine Air Wing. Following his active service in Korea, he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve for 10 years and was promoted to rank of Captain.

Upon his return from the Korean Peninsula, Senator Warner finished his law degree at the University of Virginia, and, in 1953, he was appointed law clerk to the late Chief Judge E. Barrett Prettyman of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1956, he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney and served four years in the trial and appellate divisions. He entered private law practice in 1960.

Senator Warner's next public service began as the U.S. Senate confirmed his Presidential appointment to be Under Secretary of Navy in February 1969. For over 5 years during the war in Vietnam, he served in the Department of Defense, completing his service as Secretary of the Navy in 1974.

During that period he also had special assignments in the field of diplomacy – two being the representative for the Secretary of Defense to the Law of the Sea Talks in Geneva (1969-73), and subsequently, as the principal negotiator and signatory for the United States of the "Incidents at Sea Executive Agreement" between the United States and the former Soviet Union (1970-72). This Executive Agreement is still in effect today and has been used as a model for similar agreements between other nations covering the operational directives for naval ships and aircraft in international sea lanes throughout the world.

Following his work in the Navy Department, Senator Warner was appointed by the President to represent the Executive Branch at events, both at home and abroad, honoring the Bicentennial of the founding of the United States of America.

Senator Warner's public service continued with his 1978 election to the U.S. Senate. Since that time, the Senator has served on a wide range of committees, reflecting the diverse needs of the Commonwealth. Presently, he is the Republican with the longest tenure on the Environment and Public Works Committee. In 2001, Senator Warner joined the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and he was recently reappointed to the Select Committee on Intelligence. In addition, the Senator has always acknowledged his gratefulness for the opportunity to serve with, and work on behalf of, the men and women of the armed forces. Accordingly, he is especially pleased to serve as the current Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, a committee on which he has served throughout his Senate career.